Replacement, Reduction, Refinement

Bf3R Research Funding
A quick and informative guide
The Bf3R at a glance

The German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals (Bf3R) is an integral part of the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR).

The Bf3R coordinates all associated activities nationwide with the goal of:
- Reducing animal experiments to the necessary minimum
- Providing the best possible protection for laboratory animals

The mission and goals of the Bf3R are:
- Intensifying research on alternative methods
- Advice to authorities and research institutions
- International harmonisation of alternative methods
- Research funding of alternative methods
- Provision of information to the public and experts

Minding animals – new ways to improve animal welfare

The activities of the German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals are part of the Animal Welfare Initiative of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).
Bf3R Research Funding areas

Every two years, the Bf3R Research Funding awards funding for scientific research projects in Germany, significantly contributing to the 3R principles.

**Replacement**
Studies that develop and apply innovative methods and technologies to replace a specific animal approach or to understand underlying mechanisms that are needed for the development of alternatives to animal testing.

**Reduction**
Studies that develop and apply innovative methods and technologies to minimise the number of animals used in animal approaches.

**Refinement**
Studies that develop tools and approaches to identify, classify and reduce pain, suffering or harm to animals and improve of housing conditions of experimental animals.

**Bf3R Research Funding**
- Total budget per project: up to approx. 105 T EUR
- Funding of up to 10 projects
- Funding volume: approx. 35 T EUR p.a.
- Duration of funding: up to 3 years

Examples of previously funded projects:
bf3r.de > News > Announcements > Bf3R Research Funding
Who can apply?

Bf3R Research Funding projects are allocated to scientists from various backgrounds.

**Scientists:**
- From all scientific disciplines.
- Preferably early-career scientists who have completed academic education (usually doctorate).
- Including PhD students who have access to the laboratory equipment needed for the successful implementation of the project.

**that belong to:**
- Public and non-public universities located in Germany
- Non-university research institutions in Germany
- Companies in the industrial sector with research and development capacity in Germany
Proposals that fulfill the following criteria:
- New research projects, which have not been worked on by the applicant or by another working group
- Aimed to practice innovative and ambitious 3R ideas
- Question conventional hypotheses
- Describe a challenging proof-of-concept study
- High-quality proposals that convince through scientific excellence
- Refinement projects with an animal-experimental component must be registered on the “Animal Study Registry” (ASR) platform at the Bf3R in case of positive evaluation: animalstudyregistry.org/
Selection criteria

Scientific evaluation and funding decision is managed by a scientific committee organised by the Bf3R.

The participation of persons with a potential conflict of interest is excluded. In the application form, applicants can name individual reviewers to be excluded, for example, due to potential bias.
Your path to Bf3R Research Funding

Bf3R Research Funding is guided by the following timeline.

- Announcement: 15th March
- Submission of proposals until 31st May
- Evaluation process: Jun–Nov
- Results announcement: Nov/Dec
- Start of funding: Dec/Jan

FAQ and application forms:
bf3r.de > News > Announcements > Bf3R Research Funding
Further Information

For more up-to-date information about Bf3R Research Funding and guidelines for applicants, please visit our website or send us your questions:
bf3r.de
Extramurale_Forschung@bfr.bund.de

Follow us on Twitter @Bf3R_centre

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10589 Berlin, Germany
P +49 30 18412-0
bfr@bfr.bund.de
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